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Engel, "Sur la consommation comme mesure du bien-être des individus, des familles et des nations"; Keleti, "Sur l'alimentation en Hongrie"; and Neumann-Spallart, "Sur la mesure des variations de l'état économique et social des peuples." These three distinguished men are working at the problem of indicating, by statistics of the production and consumption of the principal articles, the increase or decrease of comfort in different countries, or in the same country at different periods. Neumann-Spallart has even promised to give the results of his investigations in a future number of the *Bulletin*, and to illustrate by geometrical curves the rise or decline of well-being in the principal countries of the world. The discussion brought out a good many dissenting opinions as to the possibility of doing anything of the sort, but if it could be done it would be the greatest triumph that statistical science has as yet achieved. Enough has been said, however, to show how fruitful the labors of the Statistical institute promise to be.

R. M. S.

Laws of the United States Governing the Granting of Army and Navy Pensions, together with the regulations relating thereto.

Issued by JOHN C. BLACK, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, 1887. — 8vo, 140 pp.

Some of the departments at Washington appear to have taken up the very sensible idea of publishing in convenient and accessible compilations the national legislation on special topics. The volume here noticed is one of these publications. The object is to save officials the labor of looking through the numerous and imperfectly indexed volumes of the statutes at large for the various acts bearing on particular subjects. The student who has occasion to investigate any question in the fields already covered by these compilations, will find his labor greatly shortened by their use, and is likely to meet with statutes which otherwise he might overlook.

Of particular value for study are the *Laws relating to Loans and the Currency, Coinage and Banking*, issued by the Treasury Department in 1886 in a volume of 459 pages. Another useful volume is *Laws relating to the Construction of Bridges over Navigable Waters of the United States*, a book of 335 pages, issued in second edition in 1887. Other recent issues are the *Immigration Laws of the United States* (state and national), and *Quarantine Laws* (state and national), both issued in 1887 by the State department.

It is pleasant to see the government at Washington, which already provides with such great liberality for the study of the natural and physical sciences, taking steps to aid research in the legal and economical sciences as well. These have heretofore received less favor.

G. H. B.